

Bystander Shot, Klansman Charged After Leadership Clash in S.C.

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SUMTER, S.C., Sept. 15 (AP)— A bystander was shot to death and a member of the Ku Klux Klan is charged with assault after a dispute between rival Klan factions, police reported here today.

Sheriff Byrd Parnell said Klan forces supporting Robert Scoggin of Spartanburg, S.C., and those supporting Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Ala., clashed Sunday at a rally near Sumter sponsored by the Scoggin group.

Sheriff Parnell said that

William Odum, 50, was shot to death.

The sheriff reported that a man he declined to name, but whom he identified as with the Shelton forces, tape recorded the rally proceedings.

Parnell said:

"Some of the Scoggin security guards apparently thought Odum was with the tape recording man because the cars were moving out together. Anyway, one of them banged Odum's car with a helmet, apparently trying to get him to stop.

"The next thing that happened, there was pistol fire. One shot hit Odum in the back of the head. His car went out of control into a ditch . . ."

Scoggin has been in a drive to reorganize his klan forces ever since he got out of federal prison early this year. He had been grand dragon in South Carolina.

He, Shelton and other klan leaders had been under sentence for refusing to open klan records to a congressional committee.